

## **May 2011 Overview**

### **Shasta-Trinity Backcountry Trail Crew**

#### **David Weaver: Supervisor:**

OVERVIEW; With Orientation in Sacramento done and behind us, we loaded up in the van and truck and headed North up I-5 toward Redding. We had a layover just east of Redding on Hwy 299 to send our broken down van to the shop and borrow another to finish our trip to Weaverville. Upon arrival we met our USFS sponsors: Team Captain Mike McFadin the trail boss, all-star sponsor Leif Lastine who is our main liaison (and limitless ball of energy), and talented cook Amber Moore. Both Leif and Amber are Backcountry alumni from Klamath '07 and Klamath '03 respectively. After the introduction formalities.... Bam! off to the backcountry day one! Six miles into the East Fork of the New River Trail we found our first camp next to a running spring in about the most impressive grove of Madrone trees I've seen to date. Our primary task this first month has been to open the surrounding trail system, most of which hasn't been worked in 10-15 years! Needless to say we've had our work cut out for us widening trail tread, cutting through dozens of fallen trees using rustic crosscut saws, clearing thick walls of brush (poison oak included) and navigating large areas where the trail has disappeared completely. We have sweated and struggled in this weird weather (either hot or rainy) on steep trails, doing hard work getting conditioned for this lifestyle but in doing so we have gotten off to a great start in building the camaraderie that it takes to secure a lasting community bond.

CURRICULUM: This month was about 50/50 learning backcountry safety and more traditional curriculum. Mike Mcfadin taught a survival class and how to be found if you get lost. Useful information as Mike has experience in Search and Rescue. Leif taught us minimum impact camping, and the special events committee orchestrated an awesome "movie charades" night. We also got some inspiration from a reading of "Jonathan Livingston Seagull".

PERSONNEL CHANGES: So far our only casualty has been Alissa Emond who decided she needed to go home to tend to family issues. We were able to drop her at the airport on our way North after Orientation.

#### **MISSION STATEMENT:**

We were a group of complete strangers with a common thread of uncertainty. We had a goal to revolutionize mind, body, and spirit. The revolution of the mind is different for all of us but we had the individual drive to expand ourselves in ways not achievable elsewhere. Our lives as trail workers induce a physical metamorphosis. The community we establish will require a revolution of spirit. We must put faith in each other and the success of our season if we wish to see these things come to fruition.